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REPORT

TO

THE RADCLIFFE TRUSTEES

FOR

1872.



BY HENRY W. ACLAND, M.D., D.C.L.,

RADCLIFFE LIBRARIAN, AND REGIUS PROFESSOR OF MEDICINE.

Oxford:

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OXFORD:

BY T. COMBE, M.A., E. B. GARDNER, E. PICKARD HALL, AND J. H. STACY,

Printers to the University.

REPORT TO THE RADCLIFFE TRUSTEES.

Oxford, July 11, 1872.

MY LORD DUKE AND GENTLEMEN,

Since my last Report your instructions have been carried out in the following particulars.

1. The Eastern Manuscripts have been transferred on loan to the Bodleian Library, with the undertaking on the part of the Curators to publish a Scholarly Catalogue thereof; and on your part that in the event of the loan being recalled you will refund the expense of the Catalogue.

2. I have addressed the Curators of the Bodleian Library on the subject of the continued separation, by the public street, of the Reading Room from the Bodleian Library. I have shown to them again the design submitted to you by Mr. Woodward in 1861. It has been explained that you have not pressed on them any particular mode of junction, but have only directed me to urge on the consideration of the Curators how undesirable it is to permanently keep the Reading Room of a great national Library divided by a wide public-way from the Library itself. They have been reminded of the method proposed by Mr. Woodward, viz.

that there should be one entrance as now to the 'Dome,' by the ground floor, for the reading public, and one for the officers of the Bodleian and other special persons on the first floor, with suitable mechanical contrivance for the carriage of books in either direction. The changes hitherto made in the entrance are anticipatory of this mode of union.

The Curators were unable to give any assurance of progress in the matter—but have agreed to further consider the question. The demands on the funds of the University made it perhaps difficult to the Council to enter upon new undertakings—though indeed this one cannot be called new, since the transfer of the Library was made in the year 1861. It is not improbable that, should the Trustees be willing to erect the Gallery, the University might agree to a condition analogous to that made as regards the Manuscripts, i. e. to refund the cost of the junction if the occupation of the building by the University is not continued. It might be desirable that one or more of the Trustees should confer on this almost national subject with the Vice-Chancellor, and thus complete an improvement essential to an Institution, one of the literary glories of the Nation.

3. The last subject on which I was directed by you to take steps was to further utilise the Library funds by directly promoting some of Radcliffe's special studies, by means of a grant made by you for that purpose.

To this end two Studentships of 30*l.*, with three months' residence in Oxford, were offered to the Metropolitan Hospitals of St. George's, Bartholomew's, and Guy's, and one was offered to the great Provincial Hospital of Leeds. The selection from the London candidates was made by Sir William Gull, Sir James Paget, and Dr. John Ogle, that from Leeds by Mr. Teale and Dr. Heaton. Mr. Carey was elected from Guy's, Mr. Keetley from Bartholomew's, and

Mr. Grainger from Leeds. They have resided in Oxford during the early summer months. They were made welcome at Keble College by the Warden. One, Mr. Keetley, resided within its walls. Mr. Carey and Mr. Grainger joined the common hall. Each has sedulously followed his own bent of study, whether of Science, Literature, Art, or Medicine. The Professors kindly and readily admitted them to their departments without cost. There is reason to hope that these able men have found in the Library, Drawing School, Museum, and Lectures, a valuable addition to the ordinary routine of the Medical School, and will have carried into their after careers some of the best associations of the old University life. They are especially indebted to the department of Biology, through the kindness of Dr. Rolleston. They made progress in accurate drawing in Mr. Ruskin's school, accurate drawing being of no small value to a Surgeon, Anatomist, or Medical Teacher.

It remains for you to direct whether a similar or analogous prize shall be again offered to the youths of Radcliffe's profession. This instance shows, that with moderate funds great opportunities may be obtained in Oxford by advanced scientific Students, and that without forming an additional practical Medical School, which is not needed by the country, it will be easy in Oxford to initiate under favourable circumstances that which is needed, a Scientific School of Medicine which would give to trained Students opportunity for a few months' quiet occupied in advanced scientific study. They may here fill up some hiatus in past work ; or enter upon original scientific enquiry for which they may have acquired an interest but not the means during their education. These very men give an impetus to younger workers not so experienced as themselves.

Your Library, acting in concert with the several professo-

rial departments, may thus give to a few of the higher class of Students facilities hardly, if at all attainable, in the bustle of a great Hospital.

It might at first seem to some who read these Reports, that they contain allusions to matters not immediately relevant to a Library. But your Library, now in the centre of a cluster of scientific work-rooms, should try to reflect the progress of the higher Scientific Education. It cannot contain every Book : it should contain those which illustrate the movement and advance of sound scientific thought. Of this view the present year offers two illustrations.

Last year a new edition of your Students' Library Catalogue was laid before you and published. This year the Board of Natural Science Study, lately formed by the University, has, after much deliberation, issued a list of Books to guide Scientific Studies. The Students' Catalogue must of course harmonize with this List. Yet not exactly—for though the Board has not issued any instructions as to the study of any applied subject, such as the applications of Chemistry, Physics, or Geology, to any practical Art or Manufacture, or even as to the study of such as Meteorology or Practical Astronomy, yet the Professors nevertheless furnish opportunities for the acquiring knowledge of more than one of these. And notably your Observatory can afford rare opportunity for the study of the last two, viz. Meteorology and Practical Astronomy. Your Students' Library has, therefore, to contain the works demanded by the Board for Honour Examinations, and those demanded for scientific subjects which can be studied in Oxford, though they are not made subjects for Honours Examination.

The other instance is this. The subject of National

Health is rapidly becoming one of not the least interesting branches of scientific investigation, and has attained a high practical importance. Statistics, Physical Geography, Climate, Laws of Inheritance, Origin of Species, Laws of Social Economy in their widest sense, Human and Comparative Pathology, all bear directly on problems of National Health. But further, the deductions of Social Economics made from one race and in one country require careful comparison with the facts observed among other Nations. Just as we find in morals, that race, tradition, and climate have temporarily fostered one code of morality, so in studying the physical constitution of man the philosophical sanitary legislator must be careful to distinguish constitutional habits which have been acquired accidentally, or, as it were, topographically, from those which may be necessarily inherent, if such there be, in the whole human race, or in the branch of it under investigation.

One instance of a thousand may suffice. The Tharoos of Kheree, in Oudh, lived in 'unhealthy' forests all the year round with impunity. Greater advantages in assessment induce them to migrate to Nepal, and no sooner do these denizens of the woods leave their own malarious districts than they become fever stricken ^a. When we consider how much mental powers depend on physical conformation, there are few questions more important for a statesman than *what are the mutual relations of exogenous and autogenous causes of bodily disorder and of bodily weakness; what are the causes of immunity from, and what those of liability to, disease respectively.*

In view of the advance of these profound questions, your Librarian is arranging a distinct department of the Library, to illustrate *Comparative National Health*. A brief pro-

^a 'Annals of Indian Administration,' by George Smith, LL.D., vol. xiv. p. 125. Serampore.

visional Catalogue will be prepared this year. It will aim at including whatever books of real value can be obtained likely to aid the development of a Science of Comparative National Health. It should comprise works which elucidate the progress of Sanitary Laws of all countries.

The admirable Reports coming from India will occupy a chief place. The Library is indebted to Signor Minghetti for the draft of the new Italian Code; to Mr. Moran, of the American Embassy, for important volumes on the subject as viewed in the United States; and to other persons and places too numerous to be recorded in this Report.

Indeed the subject would hardly be mentioned before the Catalogue is made, were it not to draw your attention to the expense of procuring many of our Government Reports. It would amply repay the country to deposit a copy of all public documents requisite for the purpose in your Reading Room, devoted to a high class of Scientific Students. And I would venture to ask you to obtain a Treasury order that the Radcliffe Librarian might make a requisition for all Government Reports and 'Blue Books,' or Maps bearing on National Health, he duly acknowledging the receipt of the same.

The present First Minister has most considerately forwarded for several years, to the Regius Professor of Medicine, the Natural History Catalogues which are presented to him regularly as Trustee of the British Museum. It is certain that scores of volumes, such as those I now seek for a public end, are annually wasted, when a similar considerateness to that of the Minister or a public order might obtain them without cost, to the public advantage. I am indebted to the Duke of Marlborough for a promise to aid for the future in completing sets of all documents useful to the Library, which come within his control through the Upper House.

I cannot conclude these brief observations without a renewed expression of gratitude for the confidence which you continue to repose in my endeavours, for the constant support and encouragement I receive from my eminent scientific colleagues in the Museum, and for the ready attention of the staff of your Library.

I have the honour to be,

My Lord Duke and Gentlemen,

Your obliged and faithful Servant,

HENRY W. ACLAND,

Radcliffe Librarian.

To

THE RT. HON. W. E. GLADSTONE, M.P.

THE RT. HON. T. SOTHERON-ESTCOURT.

HIS GRACE THE DUKE OF MARLBOROUGH, K.G.

THE RT. HON. SIR W. HEATHCOTE, BART.

A. W. PEEL, ESQUIRE, M.P.

